

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A fluid collection apparatus comprising:

a housing configured for receipt of fluid and having a needleless first mating portion with a first connector; and

a holder having a first end and a second end configured to receive an evacuated tube, said first end defining a second mating portion with a second connector and adapted to establish fluid communication with the evacuated tube;

wherein said first connector is adapted to releasably couple and sealingly engage said second connector to releasably mount said holder to said housing and to establish fluid communication therebetween, one of said first and second connectors being a male connector and the other of said first and second connectors being a female connector; and

a base disposed with said housing, said base being positionable on a support surface to support said holder and said housing in upstanding relation with respect to the support surface.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base has a top opening adapted for receiving said housing.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base is adapted for standing on the support surface.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base is configured to enclose said holder.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said housing has a flange portion extending radially therefrom that engages said base.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base defines at least one rib, said rib defining a step for supporting said housing.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base defines a plurality of ribs, said ribs each defining a step for supporting said housing.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said base includes a plurality of sidewall extensions, said sidewall extensions being separated by cutout portions.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a removable cap, said cap being adapted to removably enclose an opening of said housing.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said removable cap is adapted to provide a fluid seal with said housing.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said removable cap includes a finger grip.

13-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said first connector is a male luer connector and said second connector is a female luer connector.

45. (Currently Amended) ~~A The~~ fluid collection apparatus according to ~~claim 1 including,~~ comprising:

a housing configured for receipt of fluid and having a needleless first mating portion with a first connector;

an evacuated tube;

a holder having a first end and a second end configured to receive the evacuated tube, said first end defining a second mating portion with a second connector and adapted to establish fluid communication with the evacuated tube;

said first connector being adapted to releasably couple and sealingly engage said second connector to releasably mount said holder to said housing and to establish fluid communication therebetween.;

a base disposed within said housing, said base being positionable on a support surface to support said holder and said housing in upstanding relation with respect to the support surface, said base defining a height sufficient to enclose said evacuated tube when said evacuated tube is received within said holder and said base is positioned on the support surface.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently Amended) The fluid collection apparatus according to claim [[46]] 48 wherein the holder includes an internal access cannula for accessing the evacuated tube and directing fluid into the evacuated tube received within the holder.

48. (Currently Amended) A The fluid collection apparatus [according to claim 46 wherein], comprising:

a housing configured for receipt of fluid and having a first mating connector;

a holder configured to receive an evacuated tube, the holder having a second mating connector and being in fluid communication with the evacuated tube when the evacuated tube is received within the holder;

wherein the first mating connector is releasably couplable to the second mating connector to releasably mount the holder to the housing, and is adapted to establish fluid communication therebetween; and

a base configured for supporting the housing, the base is being positionable on a support surface, and is adapted to support the housing and the holder in upstanding relation with respect to the support surface with the holder disposed beneath the housing whereby fluids flow

via gravity from the first connector of the housing through the second mating connector of the holder and into the evacuated tube.

49. (Previously Presented) The fluid collection apparatus according to claim 48 including an evacuated tube positionable within the holder.

50. (Previously Presented) A fluid collection apparatus comprising:

- a base for positioning on a support surface;
- a housing supported by the base and defining a housing cavity adapted for collection of fluid;
- a holder defining a holder cavity dimensioned to receive an evacuated tube and being disposed beneath the housing, the holder cavity and the housing cavity being in fluid communication whereby fluid collected within the housing cavity flows via gravity to the holder cavity of the holder; and
- an evacuated tube positionable within the holder cavity to collect the fluids flowing through the holder cavity;

wherein the base defines a height sufficient to support the housing, the holder and the evacuated tube above the support surface.

51. (Previously Presented) The fluid collection apparatus according to claim 50 wherein the holder includes an internal access cannula for accessing the evacuated tube and directing fluid into the evacuated tube received within the holder.

52. (Previously Presented) The fluid collection apparatus according to claim 50 wherein the housing and the holder include respective connectors, the connectors adapted for releasable coupling to releasably mount the holder to the housing.